

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

Page Denied

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

50X1

COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 24 June 1955

SUBJECT Soviet Morale Factors

NO. OF PAGES 6

DATE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED]

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

50X1

50X1

50X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Dependents of Officers on Duty Tours in East Germany

1. [REDACTED] in September 1954, only Soviet officers were authorized to bring their dependents to the Soviet Zone of Germany. Sverkhstrochniki (reenlistees) and conscripts were not authorized to bring their dependents to this area. Up to April 1954, [REDACTED] in Prenzlau (N 53-19, E 13-52), and he had observed that in that area only children up to six or seven years of age were allowed to accompany officer's wives. However, [REDACTED] Soviet children 14 and 15 years of age in the Berlin garrison area. [REDACTED] these older children were allowed only in the Berlin area and believed that they were dependents of Soviet civilian personnel in Berlin and not officer dependents. 50X1
2. The order permitting dependents in Germany appeared in late 1953 [REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED] A short time before the issuance of this order, another order had been read [REDACTED] in which it was stated that officers would henceforth serve indefinitely in the Soviet Zone of Germany instead of being rotated to the USSR after a three-year tour in Germany. 50X1
3. [REDACTED] approximately 40 percent of the officers of the Soviet units in the Prenzlau garrison area had dependents with them. These dependents lived in the housing area that was a part of the same garrison area. Officers were not permitted to settle their families on the German economy. Those officers who had served at least three years in the Soviet Zone of Germany received priority in having their dependents; officers with less service had less priority. 50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

-2-

50X1

4. In the Karlshorst Compound in Berlin, there were many dependent quarters for Soviet civilian and military personnel. 2 Soviet sponsors and their dependents were not permitted to live any place other than inside Soviet military installations anywhere in the Soviet Zone of Germany. 50X1

Marriages and Pregnancy of Military or Dependent Personnel

5. Sverkhstrochniki, officers, or civilians of the Soviet forces were permitted to marry other Soviet personnel stationed in Germany, either civilian or military. They were then given some type of quarters in their area. This usually consisted of one or two rooms in the officers' BQ. Conscripts were not officially authorized to marry. There were instances, however, where single Soviet women, both military and civilian, became pregnant. If marriage resulted from such a pregnancy, and the father of the child was an officer, civilian, or sverkhstrochniki, the married couple were given quarters. If the father was a military person, the unit political officer tried to effect a marriage. Normally, the few wives of conscripts married under such circumstances were returned to the USSR. There were rare instances, however, when regimental commanders did allow the wife of a conscript to remain in Germany and quarters were provided. Marriages were performed in Potsdam for personnel of the Prenslau Garrison and greater Berlin area.
6. Those pregnant women who did not marry were returned to the USSR after the fourth month of pregnancy. Soviet Army female personnel were not necessarily demobilized upon marriage, but continued working in their military capacity. Soviet Army female personnel married to Soviet personnel in Germany were demobilized when they reached an advanced state of pregnancy. 50X1
7. In general, commanders in heavily built up military areas were more lenient in dependent policies because medical facilities for taking care of pregnant women and other such dependent facilities were more or less available. In isolated military installations, commanders did not have such facilities at their disposal and were, therefore, forced to limit the number of dependents and had to send wives of recent locally married personnel of low rank home. 50X1

Pass Policies

8. Officially, all Soviet personnel have been allowed to leave caserne areas during off-duty time since fall 1953. However, different conditions pertained to different groups of individuals. In the Berlin/Karlshorst area, officers and sverkhstrochniki were free to leave the caserne during off-duty hours. No pass of any kind was required. Officers and sverkhstrochniki were merely required to sign their names in a sign-out book when leaving the compound, indicating their destination and expected time of return.
9. Conscripts were allowed to leave the compound in small groups with a designated NCO in charge. This privilege, however, was limited only to the outstanding and trustworthy conscripts. These men were required to have a pass in their possession showing their destination, expected time of return, and other limitations.
10. At no time were more than 30 percent of the entire personnel, officers and EM alike, allowed to be on pass at the same time. This was true in both the Berlin garrison area and the Prenslau garrison area. All personnel were supposed to return to their units by 2400 hours. This policy, however, was not very closely adhered to except in the case of conscripts. In certain units where discipline was more strict, this policy was strictly adhered to. There were special passes which permitted the bearer to be absent beyond the 2400 hour curfew. Generally speaking, officers and sverkhstrochniki looked out for each other and violated the 2400 hour curfew. There was no cause for concern until the first formation the following morning. If someone was on an unauthorized absence but his whereabouts were known, it was covered up. However, if someone failed to make the first morning formation, was on an unauthorized absence, and his whereabouts were unknown, it was imperative that higher headquarters be informed so that a search could be started. even field grade officers covered for each other during unauthorized absences provided they knew the whereabouts of the officer they were covering for. 50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

Leave Policies

11. Officers and sverkhsrochniki were authorized 45 days of annual leave plus an additional unknown number of days for travel time. Male conscripts and enlisted women were not authorized any annual leave. There were, however, instances of conscripts and EWs receiving ten days leave plus travel time for outstanding performance, and also for compassionate reasons. 50X1
12. [redacted] leaves of any sort could not be taken in Germany. [redacted] however, [redacted] the Soviet forces had a rest home at some unknown location in the south of East Germany and that military personnel were sent here on a duty status following a serious illness or operation. 50X1
13. [redacted] could not estimate the percentage of personnel on leave at any one time. It was the command responsibility [redacted] to work out a time schedule for authorized personnel to take their leaves. As a result, only in rare instances were officers and sverkhsrochniki permitted to take leaves when they personally desired. Generally speaking, units did not allow their personnel to be on leave during the semi-annual inspections conducted by higher headquarters. At all command levels, both the sampolit and unit CO could not be on leave at the same time. 50X1
14. Officers and sverkhsrochniki had no complaints regarding the number of days authorized for annual leave. They were only dissatisfied because they could not go on leave when they personally desired. Conscripts were not authorized annual leave and did not complain about it. However, those EM who did receive leave for compassionate reasons complained of the delays in getting a leave approved. Few, if any, EM ever returned to the USSR in time to attend a funeral in case of death in the family because of these delays.
15. Discipline
 - a. General State of Discipline - Discipline in the Prenzlau garrison was generally good. Discipline in the Karlshorst compound was good but more lax than in the Prenzlau garrison. The reason for this was that the units in the Prenzlau area were combat units and were, therefore, stricter in their discipline.
 - b. Stockades in or near Prenzlau - In the Prenzlau garrison area, there were five separate stockades. Four of these were at the following units: the 20th Motorized Rifle Regiment, the 10th Howitzer Battalion, the 83d Heavy Tank Self-Propelled Regiment, and the 175th Tank Regiment. The fifth stockade was in the city of Prenzlau itself and was the responsibility of the Komendatura of the city. [redacted] definitely only on the stockade at the 10th Howitzer Battalion. As a conscript, he was confined for two days here as a result of being insubordinate to his platoon commander. There were seven or eight cells in this stockade, and the average number of prisoners here was two to three. He estimated that the remaining unit stockades were about the same size. All the stockades were normally full only following Communist holidays when there was too much celebrating. [redacted] specific details concerning the Prenzlau Komendatura stockade. He knew that officers of units of the Prenzlau garrison underwent confinement at this stockade rather than at their own unit stockades. 50X1
 - c. Stockades at Karlshorst - In the Karlshorst compound there was a post stockade which contained separate cells for officers and EM. Source estimated that from 10 to 15 military prisoners were held there. All stockade prisoners were military. Some were confined as a result of unit punishment; others were awaiting courts-martial. 50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

-4-

Drinking

16. [] did not believe that drinking among Soviet military personnel was particularly excessive, even though most of the military personnel in both areas in which source had served drank up most of their pay. The high command frowned upon drinking and recommended that Soviet personnel confine their drinking to Soviet military installations where intoxicants were available. [] who was a sverksrochnik, had the privilege of eating in an officers' mess where intoxicants were available. Drinks were also available at the officer clubs. Conscripts on the other hand were not authorized to purchase any type of intoxicants at Soviet military installations. However, this policy was never adhered to since officers at both Prenzlau and Karlshorst would buy intoxicants for conscripts. The lowest paid conscripts, who received only 30 marks in pay, for the most part drank up their meager pay in one fell swoop. In most cases, commanders in both Prenzlau and Karlshorst permitted only non-drinker conscripts and better behaved personnel to leave the compound on pass. 50X1
17. After dependents had arrived in the Soviet Zone of Germany, most of the married military personnel settled down considerably. Military personnel with dependents kept to themselves in their housing areas, and the only noticeable drinking was confined to bachelor officers and sverksrochniki and they even appeared to be drinking discreetly in comparison to the years prior to 1953. 50X1

Venereal Disease

18. [] there was venereal disease in both the areas in which he had served, he could give no estimate as to the number of personnel affected. Every attempt was made by the Soviet authorities to keep this information confidential. [] completely ignorant about the procedures taken by Soviet personnel when they were infected. [] Soviet dispensaries effected cures but had no information on this. [] did not know if Soviet personnel were subject to punishment if they became infected. 50X1
19. Both political officers and regimental doctors conducted VD lectures, enjoining personnel to use discretion in selecting their partners or to practice abstinence. However, no instruction was forthcoming on what to do in the event one became infected. 50X1

Army Propaganda Concerning Discipline

20. [] no specific instances of orders from higher headquarters referring to a good or bad state of discipline in the units [] 50X1
- [] However, there were frequent bulletins issued by army and group headquarters making reference to the conduct of Soviet personnel. At times, miscreants were identified by name, and details of their wrongdoings were aired. Any time that Soviet personnel were involved in a particularly heinous crime, bulletins were read to all personnel to show that as a result of a particular incident, the Soviet Command in Germany was placed in an embarrassing position. Often the results of trials of personnel involved in such acts were also publicized to impress military personnel. When such bulletins were read, reference was made to the personnel involved, the unit involved (by FPN), and the action taken. 50X1

General State of Morale

21. [] no particular incidents that could be regarded as showing either high or low morale. [] some general dissatisfaction but did not consider it unusual. Conscripts who served more than the required three-year term of service simply because they were drafted in the spring, "did some griping". Also, conscripts who were granted emergency leave complained about the delay in the approval, and soldiers did not pass over in silence the low pay they received. However, [] this was the lot of the conscripts and was all that they should expect. Everyone, including officers, had complaints but generally kept them to themselves. The conscript accepted the 50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

-5-

fact that the pay, leave, promotion, dependent, and other policies were set up by the Defense Ministry and he was out of order to complain.

a. Food and Clothing - The only things that the conscript could legitimately complain about was his food ration and clothing issue. Each messhall had a placard which showed authorized rations, even down to the salt and tobacco. If someone thought that he was not getting his fair share of food or of clothing in the amount due him, he could make any legal complaint. This complaint would then be made orally or in writing to the immediate commander. In this connection, source thought that a minor problem was the lack of sufficient food. [redacted] served, units were issued just enough food to barely cover the head-count. There were seldom, if ever, any second helpings. The cooks also catered to the second and third-year men; and, as a result, many of the first year soldiers often went hungry, especially in the line units where appetites were keener. Sometimes these first-year men would get into a scuffle with the cooks because they would not slip them an extra piece of bread. Anytime a soldier appeared late to a meal, he did not eat because there were never any leftovers.

50X1

50X1 b. Officers' Privileges - [redacted] officer privileges were not resented by the enlisted men. If they were, there were no serious complaints about them.

c. Medical Care and Other Factors - No morale problems resulted from the lack of medical care, recreation, or PX supplies, which appeared adequate to source.

Promotion Policies

22. [redacted]
As far as enlisted personnel, both conscripts and sverksrochniki, were concerned, no one cared what his rank was. The important thing was the money. [redacted]
[redacted] personnel were paid according to the T/O&E position they held and not according to the rank they held, although the rank did correspond with the T/O&E position held in most cases.

50X1

50X1

50X1

Propaganda Against Defection

23. The only information [redacted] on the fate of deserters to the west was that received in lectures by the unit political officers. A Soviet law was read to his unit in 1951, wherein it was stated that deserters to the west were considered traitors and were subject either to death by shooting or to twenty-five years imprisonment, depending on the case. Personnel were told that the United States Command returned all deserters upon request of the Soviet Foreign Office.

50X1

Fraternization

24. In fall 1953, an order officially ending the Soviet non-fraternization policy was read by the regimental commander during a formation of the 459th Mortar Regiment. The entire theme of the order was "the friendship of the Soviet and German peoples". [redacted] the order was particularly long and required about 15 minutes of explanation. In this order it was also stated that henceforth, Soviet citizens would be permitted to marry German nationals. [redacted] knew of no case where this happened although many expressed a desire to marry Germans.

50X1

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-6-

25. Despite the fact that this order apparently ended the non-fraternization policy, it was never clear to anyone to what extent fraternization could be carried 50X1
[redacted] the GSF in Germany authorities were not in
complete agreement with this order, which had been issued by the Ministry of
Defense in Moscow. [redacted] no one fraternized
openly and brazenly. 50X1

26. To further friendship with the German people, the Karlshorst compound held a
Friendship Day (Den' Druzhby), a sort of open house, on 1 May 1954. The gate
sentries at the entrances to the compound were not posted that day and the
public was invited to be the guests of the compound. A huge crowd attended
and no documents checks of any kind were made. There was a concert by a
German and a Soviet ensemble and also a dance to which German girls were invited.

[redacted]
50X1

CONFIDENTIAL